

ACTIVITIES FOR COMPASSION INTERNATIONAL



If you have chosen to connect to kids in need around the world with *Compassion International*, you may be looking for more activities that will specifically help kids focus on this opportunity.

The following activity ideas will encourage kids to reach out and remember their pledge to communicate with, pray for, and pledge their support for children

in need. There is one specific activity that will coincide with each Veggie site and Connection theme.

These activities can be utilized in addition to the activities provided in the Leader books if you have time; or you may choose to substitute one of those activities with one of these.

1. Faith Connection: The Veggie Lagoon

Many Sands and Many Colors

Begin by talking about how God made many different children in the world! He made his children in a variety of colors and in a variety of places—and God loves every one of them! Some children, however, are not as lucky as we are. They are in need of food, clothing, school supplies, health care, and most of all—learning about God.

Distribute the jars and point out the variety of sand colors. Explain that the sand will represent all the various children in the world. Show the children where to fill their jars with the first color, using the funnel. Then choose three more colors to fill the remaining jar. (If you have more colors, and children wish to use them, they simply need to pour less sand into the jar at one time.)

After the jar is full, kids should take a toothpick or craft stick and gently push it downward, against the side of the glass. This will create various designs in the sand. They can do this as much or as little around the circumference of the jar as they want; and press down as far or as little as they desire. Every move will create a different design!

Last, distribute a label to each child to place either on the lid or the side of the jar. On it, write “Jesus loves all children” with a marker. When the kids leave the Veggie Lagoon, they can bring their jars of sand with them to remember and pray for the children in need around the world!

SUPPLIES NEEDED:

- 1 baby food jar with lid per child
- Sand in various colors
- Funnels
- Toothpicks or craft sticks
- Labels and markers

2. Communication Connection: Snoodleburg

Kids Connecting to Kids

Begin by talking about how many children around the world don't know about God or how to connect to him. They don't have churches, Bibles, teachers, and other Christians to help them learn about developing a relationship with God and his Son, Jesus.

A partnership with *Compassion International* means that we get a chance to communicate with other children and connect to them by getting to know them and share everything we know about God! Distribute stationery and envelopes to each child. Encourage each child to write a letter to the child or children that your church has chosen to sponsor. Provide them with a simple outline to follow to help get them started:

- Tell the child who you are and the city, state, and country you live in.
- Tell the child about yourself; what you like, dislike; where you go to school; the activities you participate in; what your family is like; your favorite foods; and so on.
- Tell the child what you have learned about God.
- Give the child encouragement; that you will remember him/her; that you will pray for him/her; and/or that you will continue to write letters!
- You may wish to encourage children to bring a photo(s) of themselves and perhaps their families to share with the child they are writing to. This is optional.

Complete the process by decorating the letters with fun, Veggie clip art and providing the address and stamps so that the kids can address, stamp, and perhaps even mail their own letters. Younger children will need help writing simpler letters, or you may wish to provide a letter with fill-in-the-blanks for younger kids to fill in and add to with a picture they can draw.

Be sure to share any return letters you receive back from the child or children you are sponsoring. As children leave Snoodleburg, encourage them to continue communication with children in need around the world!

SUPPLIES NEEDED:

- Stationary with envelopes
- Pencils
- Crayons or markers
- Veggie clip art

OPTIONAL: Photos

3. Love Connection: Flibber-o-loo

Gifts of Love

Before you begin, talk about how the Veggies in Flibber-o-loo and Jibberty-lot had a problem: because they were from different places, they didn't treat each other in the same, loving way. In our world, we often act much the same.

Just like we have a chance to reach out and connect with children in need around the world, we are also called to reach out and connect in love with people right here in our own town (or state). Brainstorm with the kids a list of people they can reach out and connect to that may be in need of something right in your own town. It may include:

- People who are sick
- People who are hungry or homeless
- People who are lonely
- People who don't know anything about God

Distribute a variety of craft materials, and encourage the kids to create something for the people in need in your town. For example, kids may decide to make:

- Cards
- Paper baskets filled with Bible verses or prayers (and maybe baked goods)
- Service coupons
- Paper flowers

When kids are done, they can be decorated with Veggie clip art to make them more fun and colorful. Then tell kids to deliver their gifts to the people they chose to make them for. Encourage them to continue to reach out in love with people in need in their town, in their family, and all over the world!

4. Trust Connection: Dodgeball City

Prayer Chain

Before you begin, talk about the importance of supporting one another in prayer. In order to trust in God, we must build a solid relationship with him, worship him, and communicate our love, our needs, and our problems. God is always there for us, and God wants us to trust that he will watch over us and love us forever!

One of the best things we can do for the children we support with *Compassion International* is to pray for them. We want to pray that God will watch over children in need, just as he watches over us. We want God to help our money reach them and do good things so that they can learn how much they can rely upon and trust God, too! We must also pray that they will come to develop their own relationship with the Lord.

To remind kids to pray, have them create a fun way to do it! Copy the chain link pattern page at the end of these activities onto colored paper. Distribute to kids and tell them to cut it into strips where indicated. Each child should create 30 or 31 strips so that they can create a full month's worth of chain links. On each link, children should write down someone they should pray for. The list can include:

- The *Compassion International* child or children being sponsored
- Family Members
- Friends
- Teachers
- People at church
- People in the neighborhood
- People in the community
- People in government office/doctors/nurses
- People who are sick/fighting in war/lonely

After each link has a name written upon it, kids should link them together and tape in place. Kids can take them home and hang from a ceiling, hook or the end of a curtain rod. Each day, kids should remove one link from the chain and encourage their entire family to pray for the person on that link. As kids leave Dodgeball City, remind them to continue to pray for children and others around the world forever . . . with or without a prayer chain to remind them.

SUPPLIES NEEDED:

- Construction and tissue paper
- Crayons or markers
- Glue and tape
- Veggie clip art
- Other craft materials

SUPPLIES NEEDED:

- Colored paper
- Scissors
- Chain link pattern
- Pencils or pens
- Tape

5. Time Connection: The Chocolate Factory

Compassion Calendar

Before you begin, talk about the importance of spending your time carefully—the way God wants us to. One of things God wants us to make time for is the people in need in our lives, including the children we are sponsoring from *Compassion International*. The best way to do that is to make a plan.

Copy the calendar pattern at the end of these activities onto colorful paper. Distribute twelve sheets to each child. Have a sample calendar for the upcoming year to show children how to title each sheet with a month of the year and then number each day accordingly.

Staple the sheets together at the top, and then use the posterboard to frame your calendar. You can either staple your calendar to the frame, or glue the last page of the calendar to the frame. Write **COMPASSION CALENDAR** at the top of the posterboard frame.

Encourage kids to set aside time at least two times a month to show compassion to people in need, including the *Compassion* child being sponsored. They should try to think of different activities they can do that will show compassion for people in various forms of need. These activities can include things like:

- Pray with family
- Bake something for an elderly person who is lonely
- Make a card for someone sick in the hospital
- Write a letter to the *Compassion International* child
- Rake a lawn for a neighbor
- Help mom with the dishes

Kids can take the calendars home and share with their entire family. They may even choose to show compassion for someone in need every week!

6. Joy Connection: Madame Blueberry's Tree House

Lists of Thankfulness

Before you begin, point out how people in need are often the most thankful people in the world. Why? Because they truly understand the value of things that are most important—their relationships with God and with each other. They are also very thankful for and understand the value of very basic needs—things like a home, food, clothing, health care, and a church and school to go to.

Distribute small Post-it pads or paper and scissors to kids to create their own. Cut the paper into small squares and glue the very top portion of each one together to create a small pad of paper. Mount this to a piece of craft foam that is one inch larger than the note pads all the way around. Then attach one piece of Velcro to a pencil and the corresponding piece to the side of the craft foam frame. At the top of the frame, write **LIST OF THANKS**. On the back of the frame, attach some magnetic tape so that it can hang on a refrigerator.

Encourage kids to take these home and utilize as a way to remind one another of all the things they are thankful for during the week. As family members think of something thankful, they should jot it down on one of the pieces of paper. At the end of the week, the family should gather around and read all the things they are thankful for and discuss the many things that were forgotten! Then pray to God and thank him for how blessed they are! Remember to pray for those who are not as fortunate, too, MC COSTCO longbox.sitinclud- ing the child you are sponsoring through *Compassion International*.

SUPPLIES NEEDED:

- Posterboard or large construction paper
- Calendar pattern at the end of these activities
- Sample calendar for the upcoming year
- Pens
- Stapler
- Glue

SUPPLIES NEEDED:

- Colored paper or small Post-it pads
- Glue
- Craft foam
- Scissors
- Pencils
- Velcro
- Magnetic tape

Unit 4 - Trust Connection Prayer Chain



Unit 5 - Time Connection Compassion Calendar



SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT